(8) To integrate environmental and social mitigation measures with mine development plans.

(b) The following steps are being taken to increse the productivity:

(i) Rationalization of manpower deployment;

(ii) Introduction of suitable mechanization depending on the geo-mining conditions;

(iii) Optimization of district, reorganization of layout;

(iv) Optimization of utilization of inputs;

(v) Improvement in working conditions through better ventilation etc. and

(vi) Provision of welfare and health care of coal worker.

Start of new coal mines by W.C.L.

†288. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Western Coalfield Limited has given a proposal to start new coal mines near Sarani Coalfield;

(b) whether this will help in providing coal as per the need of thermal power plants ion M.P. that are not getting sufficient coal, particularly Sarani Plant; and

(c) whether Government propose to providing help in starting soon the above said two coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Western Coalfield Limited has been supplying coal as per the requirement of Sarani TPS. Coal from the two new mines can be supplied to Sarani TPS subject to acceptance of the coal prices of Western Coalfield Limited by Madhya Padesh State Electricity Board.

(c) No, Sir.

Encroachment of Defence land

†289. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether number of encroachments on defences estate, Cantt. and defence land have increased during the last three years various plots of land and building under defence have been converted for non-defence purposes; and

(b) if so, action taken by Government in this regard and the details of such property in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Encroachments have increased marginally in certain areas whereas these have decreased in some areas. Approximately, 4888 acres of defence land has been freed feom encroachments during the last three years.

Certain instances of diversion of defence land/buildings in certain places have come to the notice of the Government in the past. Appropriate directions/instructions have been issued in such cases as a remedial measure. The details of properties diverted for non-defence purposes in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indo-US joint exercise

290. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US propose to exercise jointly with the Indian Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the details of the programme chalked out in this regard; and

(c) the measures proposed to ensure that the US military officers do not seek access to Indian bases and military infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) As part of the Indo-US Defence Cooperation, exercises involving the Armed Forces of the two countries have been held in the recent past and are also planned to be held in future both in the United States of America and in India. Such exercises provide invaluable exposure to the Armed Forces of India and the experience gained during